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LOCKED & LOADED

City hires 'wildlife biologist' for its latest assault on geese

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Now the Department of Sanitation is getting into the goose massacre business. Ten months after federal agents slaughtered close to 300 Canada geese in Prospect Park, the city agency moved ahead to hire a well-paid biologist to "manage" waterfowl near New York airports — and the \$175,000-per-year bird brain is from the same

agency that was responsible for last year's goosicide. Officially, the Sanitation Department has posted a notice of intent to hire a biologist from the United States Department of Agriculture to track "wildlife hazards," in order to prevent "bird strikes" near LaGuardia and JFK airports. But park devotees fear the city is gearing up for yet another massacre.



"It's grim news for wildlife," said Mary Beth Artz, who recently organized a rally to demand the city to allow its bird control contract with feds to expire on June 30. "It's discouraging." The city was mum about the new biologist's duties, but USDA staffers with the same title have trapped (in Cleveland, Ohio), tracked (in Juneau, Alaska) and killed birds with rifles (in Iraq) to keep fowl populations down near airports.

Matthew LiPani, a spokesman for the city, said a "panel of technical experts" — aviation officials among them — stressed the need for the new position in the wake of the so-called "Miracle on the Hudson" landing in January, 2009, which may have been caused after a collision between geese and Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's Airbus A320. In the wake of that incident, the



In Iraq, this is what wildlife biologists look like. Here, USDA sharpshooter John Griffin protects airplanes at Joint Base Balad. *Air Force photo by Keyona Fennell*



RED HOOK GOTHIC: John McGill and Krissie Nagy of the Red Hook Compost Pickup will turn your garbage into soil. *Photo by Bess Adler*

BLACK GOLD

You sell them your garbage, they sell you back rich soil

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

One man's trash is another man — and woman's — treasure. So beginning this month, a Red Hook duo will be picking up their neighbors' garbage, rescuing the stinky stuff from the landfill heap, and transforming it into a booster for garden soil — and their bank accounts. It's certainly a "green" solution all the way around: Krissie Nagy and

John McGill are asking residents to pay \$20 for the pickups, as part of their new operation, Red Hook Compost Pickup. "We realized a lot of people wanted to compost, but lacked the time or didn't know how," said Nagy, a Boston-native. But don't be on the lookout for a burly trash truck — pickups will be made by bicycle. "That's how we're going to be re-

See **COMPOST** on page 6

Tobacco plan stubbed out

Judge blocks transfer of historic warehouse for arts center

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

A federal judge has temporarily blocked a plan to turn the historic Tobacco Warehouse inside Brooklyn Bridge Park into an arts center run by the St. Ann's Warehouse theater troupe. In granting a preliminary injunction, Judge Eric Vitaliano ruled that the National Park Service violated federal law by demapping the Civil War-era warehouse and its neighboring Empire Stores warehouse from federally protected parkland. The ruling responded to a lawsuit filed by the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the National Trust for Historic



A judge has blocked a plan to turn the Tobacco Warehouse over to St. Ann's Warehouse to convert into an arts center.

Preservation, and the Brooklyn Heights and Fulton Ferry Landing associations that claimed the park service capitulated to pressure from the Bloomberg administration, which wanted to turn the property over to St. Ann's. The lawsuit claims two things: that the state lied to feds about the location of the building so that it would no longer be part of the federally protected parkland of Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park — and that the National Parks Service skirted its review duties by not questioning a state assertion that nobody used the site even though it actually has a long history of community support, *See TOBACCO* on page 6

Bar ban in Billyburg?

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Raise a glass to Williamsburg — it might be your last. Community Board leaders 1 dropped a bombshell proposal for a moratorium on all new liquor licenses on Tuesday night — curtailing the flow of new bars and

restaurants into the booze-soaked partyland. CBI Chairman Chris Olechowski said the neighborhood has "reached its breaking point" and is "oversaturated" with new eating and drinking establishments that bring "illicit drug use, loud music and loitering in the street."

"We're not saying it's going to be permanent, but we're going to send a message," said Olechowski. "This is a tremendous burden on this community. We have a responsibility to all members of the community, not just to those who want to come here and have

See **BARS** on page 11

The rock of ages

Builder plans something novel — a new brownstone actually made of brownstone

By Dan MacLeod
The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights developer is going back to the future to revive the iconic brownstone. For the first time in decades, if not a century, a townhouse made from actual brownstone quarried from its original source is being built in the borough that made the architectural style famous. Designer Tom van den Bout said his retro-chic townhouse at 27 Cranberry St. would use stone sourced from Portland Brownstone Quarries in Connecticut. "We wanted to do something that had a brownstone look," said Van den Bout. "The fact that there's this great source of stone that seemed to be a perfect coincidence." The new house on the long-vacant lot between Willow and Hicks streets will likely get the necessary approval of the Land-



Architect Tom van den Bout wants his townhouse at 27 Cranberry St. in Brooklyn Heights built with genuine Brooklyn brownstone. *Courtesy of NV/da Design*

marks Preservation Commission. After all, Van den Bout is not only the former president of the Brooklyn Heights Association, which supports the plan, but he consulted neighbors to tweak the finished design. "It's an entirely appropriate thing if you're building a new building in a neighborhood dominated by brownstones already," said architectural historian Francis Morrone. "Especially in historic neighborhoods I think it's very important." That said, some neighbors have been a bit touchy. "It's a sensitive block," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. If neighbors are ornery, it's probably from the weight of 140 years of history on their backs. After all, the building material is as iconic in Kings County as the Brooklyn Bridge and Marty Markowitz's



Good footing

School Chancellor-designate Dennis Walcott didn't put his foot in his mouth, but rather used it to hit a frozen rope in a kickball game at PS 261 in Boerum Hill on Monday. Walcott is slated to replace gaffe-prone Chancellor Cathie Black — and started his charm offensive at the Pacific Street school. *Photo by Tom Callan*

CUT! CUT!

DUMBO cries out for film ban

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Residents of DUMBO are shouting, "Cut!" to film crews who hog the streets of a neighborhood that is already besieged by street work and construction. In the past two weeks, at least six film and television productions — cop dramas, art flicks and even a Louis Vuitton commercial — have lensed the screen using DUMBO's gritty industrial backdrop and sweeping city views. But neighbors say that Hollywood couldn't have picked a worse time to spotlight their hot area, what with chunks of Water Street blocked off to accommodate construction, street reconstruction and water main work. "Give me a break," said Fred Connolly, who thinks film shoots are burdensome to drivers who must compete for parking. "Enough is enough; tell 'em to go back to Tribeca." Connolly wants big-budget



DUMBO resident Fred Connolly is irked that film crews have returned to the neighborhood in droves. *Photo by Stefano Giovannini*

Snow problem

GPS device installed in plow after 'snowpocalypse' stolen

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Hey, Mayor Bloomberg — track this! A thief swiped one of those fancy satellite-guided navigation systems that were installed

in Sanitation Department trucks after last year's Snowpocalypse, the first reported theft of one of the fancy devices so far. Police said that the Sanitation Department vehicle was getting



Handball-playing twins Joshua and Raquel Garcia, 17, were kicked off of their high school handball team for accepting a small payment for participating in a tournament. *By Stefano Giovannini*

Handball hardball

Two stars booted after rival rats them out

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

Two of the city's top high school handball players were slapped last week after a "rival coach" apparently tipped off education officials about the pair's participation in a professional tournament. The Public School Athletic

League ruled that Josh and Raquel Garcia, both seniors at High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology, are ineligible to play their final seasons because they competed for cash, a rule violation that results in the forfeiture of their amateur status — and a possible college scholarship.

But the Jim Thorpian pair — considered the top players in the city — is refusing to stand quietly on the sideline, instead blasting the league for selectively enforcing the rules and burying its head in the asphalt. The 17-year-old twins from Sunset Park said high school play-

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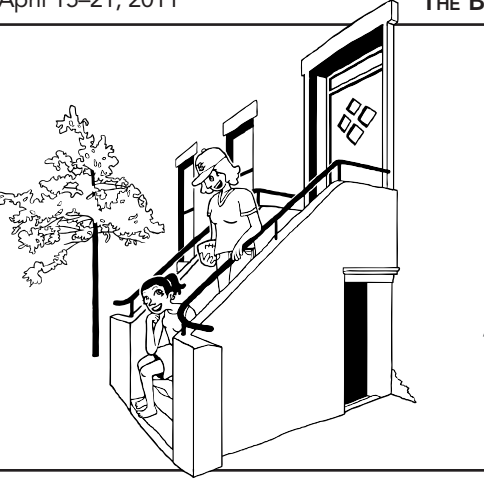
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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

Charter plan

City moves ahead with co-location in PS 9 — despite state order

By Thomas Tracy
The Brooklyn Paper

The Department of Education is moving ahead with a plan to jam a charter school into PS 9 building on Underhill Avenue, days after a state education official put the kibosh on the proposal.

The city's new plan shows that the 900 students at the three schools — the elementary school, MS 571 and the Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School — can all learn under one roof between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue.

The plan provides for a special “building council” comprised of the principals of the three school that will smooth out space concerns as they pop up.

“We think the new proposal is in line [with what everyone wants],” Department of Education spokesman Jack Zarin-Rosenfeld.

State Education Commissioner David Steiner had put the kibosh on an earlier version of the “co-location” plan last month, siding with parents about how students would share common areas like the gym, library and cafeteria.

PS 9 parents were surprised by how short their victory over City Hall was.

“It’s only been a week and they’re back,” said Faye Rimalovski. “It’s disheartening.”

There is little push for retaining MS 571, a poorly performing school that the city will phase out over the next two school years. Students scored in the bottom 10 percent on math tests, and the bottom two percent on English tests in recent years. MS 571 also earned a D grade on its latest city progress report.

The charter school will ultimately take up the space MS 571 leaves behind. But Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) and others have pushed for PS 9 to be allowed to expand into a middle school.

“PS 9 has achieved magnificent things and should be given an opportunity to expand,” James said. “But it’s evident that the city will continue to advance its agenda and impede the school’s growth.”

The Panel for Educational Policy vote on the issue at Long Island City High School [14-30 Broadway between Justice Avenue and 51st Avenue in Queens, (212) 374-0208] on May 18 at 6 pm. The proposal can be found at the Department of Education’s website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/May182011Proposals>.



Kids and faculty at PS 9 remain angry that a charter school will soon take some space in the Prospect Heights building.



CARROLL GARDENS

Christmas in April

Stars Duhamel and SJP celebrate ‘New Year’s Eve’ on Smith Street

By Natalie O’Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Hollywood hotties turned Carroll Gardens into a winter wonderland this week, tossing up glittering Christmas decorations as a backdrop for “New Year’s Eve,” a romantic comedy starting cinematic sexpot Josh Duhamel and Sarah Jessica Parker.

The movie stars shot the final scene of the movie — which tracks the lives of a Big Apple couples as they ring in the new year — near Smith and Union streets, while star-struck neighbors tried to catch a glimpse of the action.

In the scene, the bow-tie-sporting hunk runs down the street after his love interest (Parker) in hopes of winning her heart before midnight — a cliched cinematic sprint (we loved it in “Manhattan,” and liked it a bit less in “When Harry Met Sally”).

Before the shoot, crews remade the strip into a mini Christmas village for the two-day shoot, which lasted until Friday evening and took over four streets, including portions of Sackett and Douglass streets.

The front of Jean-Jacques Bernat’s Provence en Boite near Degraw Street, for example, was fitted with a big white Christmas tree and some lights.

Bernat said he was pleased at the street’s temporary wintry look, even if Duhamel opted for a slice of pizza instead of one of Provence en Boite’s outstanding pain au chocolate when the cast took five.

“It’s amazing,” said Bernat. “It has made people more energized and animated.”

The Garry Marshall-directed film also stars Robert De Niro, Hilary Swank and very pretty boy Ashton Kutcher, the Nikon pitchman and husband of Demi Moore.

A spokeswoman for the New Line Cinema production declined to give away “plot twists,” but said that the filmmakers chose Smith Street because “it’s beautiful and festive” — which is true no matter what season.

PARK SLOPE

Lincoln on the move — honest

Great Emancipator will return to Grand Army Plaza

By Natalie O’Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Abraham Lincoln will soon upstage a Scottish gynecologist who’s been perched in Grand Army Plaza since the days of horse and buggies.

The city has secured \$340,000 to haul a towering statue of Honest Abe back to its original spot — at the gateway to Brooklyn’s backyard — from exile in the Concert Grove.

“We thought he should go back to nice, prominent spot,” said park spokesman Eugene Patron. “It’s more historically accurate.”

The sculpture — which was the first Lincoln statue erected in the Union — was installed at the northern end of Grand Army Plaza in 1869. But three decades later, city leaders moved him to the lower terrace of the Concert Grove, claiming that the 16th president had been dwarfed by Prospect Park’s signature Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch.

A bronze bust of Civil War doctor Alexander Skene was installed nearby — and has remained there for decades.

The Lincoln statue won’t return to its exact original spot at the very top of the plaza facing Manhattan, but will stand on the north side, facing south, and this time, he’ll have decorative pavement, benches and plants surrounding him after the move is completed by the end of the year.

As such, history buffs have a few critiques. Lincoln-obsessed blogger and Park Sloper Richard Kessler thinks the plan is flawed because the Great Rail Splitter should stand facing north, as symbol of his Civil War affiliation.

Lincoln was originally facing that direction — in fact, the statue was intentionally facing the home of the wealthy Astor family, which opposed Lincoln because of his anti-slavery positions.

As such, the point of the Lincoln statue, said Kessler, was to have the president “reading the Astors the riot act from the grave!”

The city has said that Lincoln’s exile was simply due to not wanting the Great Emancipator to be overshadowed by the archway, but historians like Kessler believe that the statue was cast into exile by 19th-century officials who didn’t like what Lincoln stood for: Ending the Confederacy, freeing the slaves and restoring the Union.



The statue of Abraham Lincoln will be placed in a nice area of Grand Army Plaza.

GREENPOINT

MTA will move buses for park

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Park that park in Greenpoint!

The MTA has finally agreed to move buses from a Commercial Street lot that locals have long desired for a waterfront park.

MTA Chairman Jay Walder announced that the agency will move its fleet to two locations — one underneath the Williamsburg Bridge and another in Maspeth in Queens.

The move will free up the asphalt lot off Box Street at the edge of Greenpoint to become the neighborhood’s largest waterfront park.

Councilman Steve Levin (D-Greenpoint) hailed the decision, the culmination of six years of negotiation.



The MTA has agreed to move its buses and other equipment off this waterfront lot in Greenpoint.

“This agreement signifies the commitment of both the city and the MTA to ensure that 65 Commercial becomes public open space in the near future,” said Levin.

But Queens residents have been incensed that the city and the MTA even considered putting buses in Queens — a plan that Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Queens) called “horrible, reckless and dangerous.”

For Greenpoint residents, it’s a long time coming.

The city promised a park to the community at that location as part of the 2005 Greenpoint-Williamsburg rezoning agreement that precipitated a boom in residential development.

But as glass and steel condominium towers rose along Williamsburg’s coast, few waterfront parks were built.

Indeed, the MTA gradually expanded its operations on the lot, fixing buses and emergency vehicles behind an unsightly chain link fence for several years.

But Greenpoint community leaders ratcheted up the pressure on the city and the MTA in recent weeks to move the facilities from Commercial Street.

As such, District Leader Lincoln Restler, who organized a demonstration at the site two months ago, called the decision a “big victory” for Greenpoint.

“The community activism, the rallies, and the public eviction notice forced the MTA to heed the demands of the Greenpoint community and vacate a parking lot that we will finally see developed into a new park,” said Restler.

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90TH PRECINCT

Southside–Bushwick
A perp ordered an iPhone from a Williamsburg man through Craigslist, but decided to steal 10 of them from him in person on April 10.

The perp contacted his victim through the Internet to express his interest in a new phone and later drove him to his Bushwick Avenue apartment from Manhattan with an accomplice.

When the victim brought the phones downstairs at 2:30 am, the perp pulled out a gun and pulled the bag from his hands.

POLICE BLOTTER

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He and his accomplice fled down Bushwick Place in their car, leaving his victim stunned.

Bike bash
A man punched his victim in the head with a bike lock and cut his finger with a pocket knife inside his Metropolitan Avenue apartment on April 5.

The victim told police that the perp, who knew the victim's roommate, attacked him at 8 am, cutting his right finger and bashing his head in before leaving on a bicycle down Morgan Avenue.

— Aaron Short

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown
The strangler
A violent jerk choked a man on Gold Street, then took his cellphone on April 7.

The 40-year-old victim told cops that he was near Concord Street at 10:40 pm when the thug yelled, “Yo, give me all your money!”

The man refused, so the thug punched him in the face, then strangled him before snatching his \$100 cellphone.

Cops arrested a 52-year-old man the same night.

Bad bloods
Two thugs beat up a teenager, then snatched his cellphone on Prospect Street on April 7.

The 14-year-old victim told cops he was strolling near Jay Street at 8 pm, when one of the jerks asked him, “Are you a Blood or a Crip?”

“I’m nothing,” he told the bullies, but they started to punch and kick him in the face anyway.

One of the thugs then snatched his gray BlackBerry cellphone and they both away.

Mean girls
A mob of bullies beat up a teenage girl and snatched her stuff on Fulton Street on April 6.

The 17-year-old victim told cops that she was near Gallatin Place at 5:25 pm when eight girls started to hit her, knocking off her glasses.

One of the bullies snatched an umbrella from her hand; another swiped her Droid cellphone, then threatened to kill her by pushing her in front of a train.

Cops arrested one of the girls the next day.

Sporty snatch
A quick-moving jerk snatched a woman's wallet inside a clothing shop on Fulton Street on March 16.

The 24-year-old victim told cops that she set her black purse on a chair at Dr. Jays Ladies, which sells sporty urbanwear near Lawrence Street at around 2 pm, then walked away for a minute. That was enough time for someone to snatch her purse and the \$54 inside.

479 Fulton St.

Beauty bandit
A scoundrel snatched a purse from a salon worker on Livingston Street on April 7.

The 43-year-old worker told cops that she set her brown Coach purse inside a cabinet at Top Nail Design near Nevins Street at around 10:30 am. At the end of her shift, it was gone — and so was the \$300 inside.

Sad shopper
A jerk swiped a woman's purse while she was shopping on Fulton Street on April 1.

The 63-year-old victim told cops that she was trying on a sweater at Modell's, a sporting goods shop, near Elm Place at around 7 pm when she placed her bag down for one minute. That was enough time for the jerk to snatch the purse, which had a \$500 money order inside.

Not so ‘Fine’
A crook snatched a purse from a club-goer on Front Street on April 8.

The 25-year-old victim told cops that she had placed her purse on a bar stool at Superfine at around 8:15 pm.

A sneaky woman then sat next to her and, a couple hours later, the woman discovered that her purse was nowhere to be found.

D-train downer
A bold thief swiped a woman's cellphone inside a subway car near DeKalb Avenue on April 5.

The 37-year-old victim told cops that she was riding the D train at 11:55 pm, when it stopped and a man in a blue hooded sweatshirt snatched the black iPhone from her hands. He ran off the train just before the doors closed.

— Natalie O'Neill

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Northside
Dog soldier
A violent thug stabbed a man three times on McGuinness Boulevard after the man refused to fork over his wallet.

The man was walking his dog near Dupont Street at 12:15 am when the perp approached him brandishing a knife.

“Give me money,” he said.

The dog walker refused, so the thug slashed his stomach and ran.

Jackson popped
Two perps punched a man in his head and robbed him on Jackson Street on April 9.

The man was near Humboldt Street at 12:55 am when two perps approached him and struck his head.

“Gimmie your wallet and your pin or we’ll find you and kill you,” said one of the thugs before the victim surrendered his wallet.

India impaled
A thug cut a man with a sharp blade on India Street on April 5.

The perp and his victim got into an argument near Manhattan Avenue at 2:20 am when the perp took out the blade and sliced the man's left side.

Perfume pop
A thief stole a laptop, camera and sunglasses from a Manhattan Avenue perfume store on April 3.

The store owner told police she left the store, which is near Noble Street, at 7 pm, but when she returned at 2 pm the next day, she found the property was gone.

Rim job
A thief stole a car's tires and rims overnight on April 5.

The driver told police that he had parked his car on Monitor Street near Division Place at 12:15 am, but when he returned seven hours later, he found his rims were gone.

Rim job II
A thief stole the tires and rims from a car parked on N. 11th Street overnight on April 4.

The driver told police that he parked his wife's car at 11 pm near Roebling Street but when he returned at 7:30 am the next day, he found its tires were gone.

Quick swipe
A thief stole a laptop from a car parked on Manhattan Avenue on April 8.

The driver told police that he left his girlfriend's car near Nassau Avenue at 7:45 pm and returned just 15 minutes later to find the passenger window broken and his laptop missing.

Newel thief
A thief stole an Acura on Newel Street overnight on April 6.

The driver told police that he parked near Norman Avenue at 3 pm, but when he returned 11 am the next day, it was gone.

— Aaron Short

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook
Pack attack
A pack of teens used an array of items to beat a man on Smith Street on April 5.

The 33-year-old victim told cops that he was near Ninth Street at 3:15 pm when he passed a large group of teens which suddenly hit him with an umbrella. The man kept walking and was then hit with a backpack. He crossed the street, but the mob persisted, this time using fists before fleeing.

The man suffered bruises to the nose and hands.

Software pirate
Someone stole thousands of dollars of computer software and a laptop from a Baltic Street building on March 29.

The 51-year-old victim said that he was filming a movie inside the building, located near Bond Street, and went on the third floor at around 8 pm. When he returned back to the ground level at 9:30 pm, he was floored to find his high-end Apple laptop, along with \$2,539 of film editing software, gone.

Wheel steal
Someone stole tires and rims from a sports car parked on Columbia Street on April 5.

The 48-year-old victim said he parked his white Infiniti G37 near Kane Street at around 2 pm, but by the time he returned eight hours later, all four wheels, worth \$3,000, were gone.

Drug thug
Someone stole over-the-counter drugs from a Court Street CVS on April 5.

A 39-year-old store worker

told cops that the congested creep sidled into the store, located near Dean Street, and made off with \$210 worth of Claritin, \$570 worth of Zyrtec, and \$200 worth of Oral B products.

Empty ‘Harry’
Someone robbed a Smith Street bar patron of everything but the kitchen sink on April 4.

The 38-year-old victim said that he went to Bar Great Harry, located near Sackett Street, at around 8 pm, and when he returned to his things at 8:15 pm, they were missing.

The thief made off with \$4,725 worth of stuff, including: an Apple laptop, headphones, laptop case, cycling jacket and shoes, groceries and laundry.

Purse grab
Someone stole a woman's purse from a Verandah Place home on March 30.

The 59-year-old victim said she was babysitting when the creep entered the home on the gorgeous block near Clinton Street, and made off with her purse, along with a wallet.

The wallet and purse were recovered quickly, but the babysitter's credit cards, identification, and \$80 was gone.

— Gary Buiso

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill
Rough morning
A well-armed thug made off with two smartphones after holding up a pair of teens on their way to school on April 4—but he didn't get far before cops nabbed him.

The victims told police that the teen perp pulled a black pistol and a knife on them around 8:45 am after they left a store on Fort Greene Place between DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street.

The daytime bandit shouted, “Give me what you got right now,” snatched an iPhone and a Blackberry and ran off.

Cops say they arrested the 17-year-old thief later that day.

Real escape

A pair of burglars made off with an array of computer equipment from a real estate company on Prince Street in Downtown on April 6 — and it was all captured on film.

Cops say that the perps busted in through a side window of the offices of Jack, Jaffa & Associates near Flatbush Avenue Extension at 4:53 am and swiped a laptop computer, projector and computer monitor.

They know this from watching the surveillance video.

Carted away

Someone swiped a pair of fruit carts from a parking lot near Commodore Barry Park last week after the owners left them sitting for two days.

The cart owners told cops that they left their mobile markets in the parking lot on N. Elliot Place between Flushing Avenue and Tilary Street at around 4 pm on April 4 and returned two days later to find their wares missing.

The carts are each valued at \$2,000

Truckin' ay
A thief swiped a Queens man's truck from Ashland Place on April 7.

The victim told cops that he left his locked 1998 Chevy S10 near Willoughby Street at around 8:30 am, but by the time he returned minutes later, the perp was already making his getaway.

— Dan MacLeod

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
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Families bike PPW to support lane

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Hundreds of cyclists — toddlers on tricycles, sign-waving mamas and helmet-clad dads — rode the Prospect Park West bike lane on Sunday to show support for the city's most controversial cycle path.

A larger-than-expected crowd celebrated what organizers call the "family friendly re-design" of street — which once consisted of three lanes of speeding cars, but was reconfigured last year into a two-lane road with a two-way bike lane protected by a lane of parked cars.

The redesign is the subject of a lawsuit and a call for removal by a local Assemblyman, but riders on Sunday said they support for the bike lane practical, not political, reasons.

"I'm usually the last person who would come to an organized event

like this," said Brian Ward, a Park Slope dad who uses the lane to cart his toddlers to preschool. "But this is really important to us — we use it twice a day."

Some supporters did link the personal to the political, handing out buttons with slogans and sporting orange shirts that read, "We ride the lanes!"

Since its installation last June, the Prospect Park West bike lane has been the most controversial use of paint since Manet's "Olympia."

Some pedestrians say they are confused by the two-way configuration on an otherwise one-way boulevard. And drivers have complained at the loss of one lane for automobiles to accommodate the cycle path.

The lane has been the subject of several supposedly objective polls, and a clear plurality of residents support it, while roughly a quarter of residents want it removed.

Another quarter or so want the lane altered with additional safety features for pedestrians.

Two neighborhood groups — Seniors for Safety and Neighbors for Better Bike Lanes — have sued the city, claiming that the bike lane has created dangerously "inconsistent traffic patterns" and "limited visibility" for pedestrians on the busy street.

No opposition group members showed up on Sunday, and group representatives could not be reached immediately for comment.

Still, Councilman Brad Lander (D–Park Slope), a supporter of the lane, showed up with his own two-wheeler and counseled cyclists to ride smart in hopes of not alienating pedestrians, their natural allies.

"Yield to pedestrians!" he chanted.

The last major show of support for the lane was back in October, when 250 riders crowded the street to celebrate the redesign.

Families were especially eager to show their support for the beleaguered Prospect West bike lane on Sunday.

Several dozen opponents rallied, too.

On Sunday, bikers hoped to show — at least anecdotally — that the lane gets plenty of use.

"Kids get to feel like they have a space in an intensely paced city," said co-organizer Joanna Oltman Smith. "This lane is a little oasis."

2 gunmen, 2 crimes

68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

A gunman robbed the Seventh Avenue Shell gas station on April 8, but ended up making his escape by tossing a microwave through the store's window.

Cops say that the perp entered the Shell, which is between 64th and 65th streets, at around 2:50 pm. The thief, clad in sunglasses and a white jacket, flashed a silver handgun at the clerk and demanded cash. The employee obeyed, but then ran out of the store, locked the perp inside and called 911.

The perp responded by grabbing a microwave and throwing it through the window. He fled through the shards of broken glass.

Gas gunman

Two armed bandits stole \$7,000 from a Seventh Avenue gas station on April 6.

An employee at the Gulf station, which is between 85th and 86th streets, told cops that two perps wearing ski masks charged in at around 2 am. They pointed black semi-automatic handguns at the employee's back and demanded money. The victim obeyed and the perps fled.

Salty scuffle

Someone jumped a woman outside a Third Avenue bar on April 2 to steal her designer purse.

The victim told cops that she was in front of the Salty Dog, which is between 76th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway, at around 2:35 am when an unknown perp shoved her and then began to hit her.

The victim dropped her Dolce & Gabbana bag in the scuffle and the perp made off with the goods, which included her wallet, cell, keys and camera.

— Alex Rush

78TH PRECINCT Park Slope

Gold digger

A gunman hit the big time when he mugged two victims on Berkeley Place on April 7, getting away with a \$14,000 diamond ring and a glistening new iPad.

The victims told cops that they had just left the Grand Army Plaza station and were between Seventh and Eighth

POLICE BLOTTER

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avenues when a man came up from behind and said, "Don't turn around or I will shoot you. Drop your bags on the floor."

He displayed the black pistol, and the victims, a 25-year-old woman and a 26-year-old man, did as told.

The thief not only went through the possessions, but grabbed the woman's fingers, removing the prized catch: the five-figure engagement ring.

He also got away with a Jobsian haul, including the iPad, an iPhone 4, a second cellphone, cash and various cards.

oyPhone

A thief snatched a fancy smartphone from a woman's hand on a Manhattan-bound 2 train under Grand Army

Plaza on April 5.

The victim told cops that she got on the train at the station at Flatbush Avenue at around 2:50 pm. Shortly after the train left the station, the thief made his move, taking her iPhone and leaping off at the next stop.

Text boxed

A thief picked a Blackberry out of a woman's hand on Sixth Avenue on April 6.

The 39-year-old told cops that she was taxing on the phone between St. Johns and Sterling places at around 6:40 pm when a teen thief sneaked up from behind, grabbed the phone and kept on running.

Third bird

A thief stole two Apple laptops from a Third Street

apartment on April 4.

The residents told cops that they were not in the unit, which is between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, between noon and 2:30, when they returned to find their computers gone.

Jimmy mean

A thief jimmied open a door on an Eighth Avenue home on April 4 then took a laptop and a camera.

The victims said they were not inside the house, which is between Seventh and Eighth streets, from 8 am to 7 pm, when they returned to find the computer and Canon photographic device missing.

Went Fourth

A thief took a computer, camera and earrings from a Fourth Avenue apartment on April 4.

The residents were not in the unit, which is between Sixth and Seventh streets, between 10 am and 6 pm.

Wheel bad

A thief swiped an 11-year-old Camry from 10th Street sometime during a three-day period.

The victim told cops that she parked the antediluvian auto between Second and Third streets on March 29, but it was gone when she returned to it on April 1, no fooling.

— Gersh Kuntzman

77TH PRECINCT Prospect Heights

Greedy gamer

A thief snatched some fancy videogame gear from a Park Place apartment on April 9.

The 27-year-old victim told cops that he was sleeping inside his bedroom near Washington Avenue at around 11:30 pm when someone sneaked through his unlocked front door, and took a PlayStation 3, laptop and white backpack.

His neighbors said they saw nothing.

Costly snatch

A thief swiped a woman's fancy jewelry on St. Marks Avenue on April 8.

The 41-year-old victim told cops that she left her apartment near Flatbush Avenue at 9:30 am and returned at 10:45 pm to discover that her back window was open and thousands in diamond earrings and necklaces were gone.

Unlucky Lexus

A quick-moving jerk swiped some cash from a senior citizen on Bergen Street on April 9.

The 65-year-old victim told cops she parked and locked her 2007 Lexus near Carlton Avenue at around 3:50 pm. But when she returned about an hour later, she discovered that her front passenger-side window had been shattered and that her \$100 cellphone, along with \$90, were gone.

Tax break

A jerk snatched some checks from a car parked on Eastern Parkway on April 10.

The 43-year-old victim told cops he parked his 2008 gray Toyota near Classon Avenue at 3:30 pm, then went to the Brooklyn Museum. The driver came back two hours later and discovered that someone had smashed his passenger-side window, then swiped a checkbook and some tax forms.

Vintage snatch

A thief swiped a cellphone inside a clothing shop on Vanderbilt Avenue on April 3.

The 24-year-old victim told cops she set her iPhone on a counter inside One of a Find Vintage near St. Marks Avenue at 1:30 pm, then took a five-minute stroll through the store. That was enough time for the jerk to snatch her phone.

— Natalie O'Neill

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The truth is out there

Sheepshead Bay man starts a 24-hour UFO hotline

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

The latest immigrants to land in Brooklyn are little green men. The borough where Ralph Kramden kept threatening to send his wife to the moon now has its first 24-hour UFO hotline, where New Yorkers can report close encounters of the fuggedaboutit kind.

Joe Capp, 68, a retired computer consultant from Sheepshead Bay, started the out-of-this-world hotline in February, and has so far fielded calls reporting nearly two-dozen distinct sightings around the city.

“How is everybody going to report this stuff if everyone is discouraging them?” he said. “I’m looking at witnesses as a resource rather than someone to slam around.”

So far, the most memorable sighting he’s gotten has been from a woman who spotted three lights traveling in unison in the sky over Park Slope.

At about the same time he got



similar calls from UFO spotters in Queens and New Jersey, though he can’t say if they are linked.

He also got a call from a person in Long Island who said that UFOs had been following him and he was worried that he was going to be abducted.

Capp personally called the man back and asked him if he had any unexplained gaps in his memory. When the man said he didn’t, even Capp doubted the man’s fears were warranted.

“I wasn’t sure if this was about his own loneliness,” Capp said.

The hotline was an outshoot of a UFO meet-up group Capp has held with other New Yorkers at a diner since 2007.

“It’s good to hear shared experiences,” said group member Julio Barriere, who said he sees UFOs any time the sky is clear, and was recently lasered in the cheek by a spaceship in Jamaica Bay.

Capp, who saw his first UFO as a young man in Atlantic City, said

Sheepshead Bay resident Joseph Capp has set up a hotline for Brooklynites who see UFOs. You know they’re out there.

that people who have had alien encounters need others to talk to who have had a shared experience.

“Seeing a UFO not only changes your belief system, it makes you vulnerable,” he said.

For years, Capp only told family and friends about his encounter. “It threatens your career.”

After he retired, he started the UFO Media Matters blog, to keep a growing network of believers up to warp speed.

But experts are not convinced there’s something out there.

“There is no compelling evidence for any life beyond Earth, intelligent or otherwise. Not yet,” said Seth Shostak, a senior astronomer with the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute in California.

Shostak said a third of the country thinks Earth has been visited by UFOs.

“But evidence for this is considered weak by most scientists,” he cautioned.

Capp said that he expects to be getting increased calls in the summer, but that the city — despite a recent incident in Williamsburg is not necessarily a sighting hot spot.

“People in New York don’t look up and see the stars,” he said.

UFO spotters can call the hotline at (347) 298-9020.

The ‘King’ is dead

Behind the demise of Park Slope’s cupcake bakers

By Natalie O’Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The King of Cupcakes is dead — but the epic fight over the demise of the popular Park Slope shop wages on.

The failure of the fledgling business is a cautionary tale of buttercream and bitterness, pitting soon-to-be-married bakers Megan Kerrigan and Sean Rich against the far more established Ricky’s NYC cosmetics and costume chain.

Kerrigan and Rich opened their mom-and-soon-to-be-pop bakery on Seventh Avenue five months ago in partnership with Ricky’s NYC

— a deal that called for the couple to make cupcakes for sale at the shop and at kiosks inside every Ricky’s location. Ricky’s would own 51 percent of the company, and in return provided the storefront and promotional help.

But the arrangement ended on St. Patrick’s Day, when Ricky’s padlocked the shop with no warning. Kerrigan and Rich say that their shop flopped because Ricky’s failed to provide enough prompton or install the ki- osks to sell the treats.

“They’re millionaires and we have nothing,” said Ker- rigan.

Ricky’s honchos contend that the bakery flopped because the newbie owners ran the place like the amateurs they are.

“You can’t do good business with bad people,” said Ricky’s founder Todd Kenig.

In the beginning, of course, it looked like this fairy tale would have a happy ending. Kerrigan and Rich burst onto the baked good scene after The New York Observer wrote up their cupcake cart in Manhattan. Within days, a Ricky’s realty honcho named Adam called Kerrigan to make his pitch.

“His exact words were, ‘Today is your lucky day. We’re gonna make your dreams come true,’” she said. Both parties signed a contract and the shop opened near Fourth Street in late October, in the midst of the borough’s roaring cupcake craze.

The couple worked long hours to make their unconventional banana peanut butter and jelly sandwich or pumpkin cannoli cupcakes. They even appeared on Food Network’s “Cupcake Wars,” but the shop couldn’t generate enough cash to stay alive. Kerrigan and Rich blame the



Sean Rich standing in front of what used to be his shop, The King of Cupcakes.

“weak” promotional effort by Ricky’s.

“We had a dream,” she said, adding her Marine Park house is in foreclosure. “Now we’re broke.”

Foodies from the neighborhood had their own theories about the demise, call-

ing the cakes “dry” and “oily” on Yelp.com. Dan Myers, who tends to write business-positive stories for the blog Here’s Park Slope also noted, “The staff’s lack of training was painfully apparent to most customers.”

Faith in Brooklyn

SPECIAL SECTION

Excuse me, are you Jewish?

If you are, you’re probably reading this in shul

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough Jews are not losing their religion — they’re finding it.

From Park Slope synagogues to Midwood’s shtiebels, religious leaders say they’re bursting at the bimah — and in so doing, they’re bucking a nationwide trend.

“We have seen tremendous growth in the number of people participating in our community,” said Shira Koch Epstein, the associate rabbi of Congregation Beth Elolhim on Garfield Place in Park Slope. “Our programs and

our worship services are only growing with more and more people who are choosing to engage in Jewish life.”

But across the country, 55 percent of the country’s Jews identify themselves as “non-religious,” basing their answers on attendance at religious services and how important religion is in their lives, according to a recent Gallup survey.

Just 16 percent of Jews said they were “very religious.” Oy, by comparison, 75 percent of Mormons, 50 percent of Protestants, 44 percent of Muslims and 42 percent of Roman Catholics similarly

describe themselves.

But Brooklyn’s Jewish leaders said there’s no crisis of faith.

“You walk along Avenue J or Avenue M, you’d think you were in Jerusalem,” said Rabbi Alvin Kass of the East Midwood Jewish Center on Ocean Avenue.

Being a true believer pays off, the rabbi said.

“Jews who practice their religion find that they have a happier, more fulfilling life,” said Kass, who is also the chief chaplain of the NYPD. “It gives you a feeling of perspective about the world to realize that there’s a power

greater than your own in the universe.”

And the data bear that out.

According to the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, Jews are rated first in feelings of well-being, ringing up a composite score of 69.8, a numeric gauge derived from work environment and emotional and physical health. (The non-religious were a close second with a score of 67, followed by Mormons (66.9), Muslims (65.8), other non-Christians (65.6), and Protestants (64.8).

But numbers — we mean the statistics, not the fourth book of the Torah — are of no interest to Rabbi Aaron Raskin of congregation B’nai Avraham on Remsen Street in Brooklyn Heights.

“I am not at all concerned with statistics, because I see clearly that Judaism is growing and thriving,” he said.

But that doesn’t mean that every seat in synagogue needs to be filled on a Saturday for a person to be consid-

ered observant, he said.

“I don’t believe in the word ‘religious,’ Raskin said. “I believe that every Jew has to do more this year than last year, to do one more good deed this year than last — that’s how we measure ourselves.”

According to U.S. Census data from 2000, Jews make up 15.4 percent of the borough’s population.

Recently released Census data has not yet been broken down by religious affiliation — but the numbers will likely be higher, at least according to the mensch on the street.

“Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn are going through tremendous growth,” said Gary Schlesinger, the chairman of United Jewish Community Advocacy Relations and Enrichment, an advocacy group monitoring the data.

Schlesinger, a member of the ultra-Orthodox Satmar sect, said more Jews are becoming interested in their religion, particularly near Jewish holidays.

“We see a tremendous awareness,” he said. “The percentages are meaningless if you look at the total picture out there.”

The roots of faith in God

By Rev. Daniel Meeter
The Brooklyn Paper

Faith is sailing by the stars. You lift your eyes from the horizon and make your way by signs of light. You have to figure on the movement of the stars, but you learn the calculations from the many who have sailed before you.

To live by faith is not to find your way by what is in front of you. You look for signs you cannot touch, which are not immediately relevant. You learn to look for things far off, things more real, more constant and reliable than what is right in front of you.

Faith has a bad name. So much violence in the world is in the name of religion, and there is no excuse. My own faith, Christianity, is historically the most violent. The Holocaust was carried out by church-goers. The First World War was a Christian war. We have a lot to answer for. And

yet it is true that more people have been killed in the name of atheist ideologies. Think of Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, and Chairman Mao. But ideology imitates religion. Ideology allows you to denounce your parents and kill your neighbors. People substitute ideologies for faith. Faith is what makes us human, for better and worse. Wolves depend on trust and dogs show faithfulness, but we’re the only animals who pray.

The stars I travel by are the promises of God. The promises give me markers for morality, they guide me to act beyond my needs and appetites. The promises help me to desire what is beyond myself and what’s more true than my own experience. I depend on my faith to sustain my hope and my love, even when all around is dark.

Daniel Meeter is pastor of the Old First Reformed Church in Park Slope.

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COMPOST

Continued from page 1

lating to the neighborhood and letting them know that their compost will be turned into something that can be used in their gardens,” Nagy said.

Of course, buying back the refined trash has a price: \$15 for a 25-pound bag.

Composting—the break-

down of organic matter by microorganisms to produce a nutrient-rich soil conditioner—is already underway at a Commerce Street garden tended by McGill, a Dublin-born artist, craftsman and jack-of-all-trades who handles a rake like he’s holding a violin.

“When you see a lot of

stuff around and sitting around, why would you leave it there? It’s going to get thrown away?” he said.

The pair will be accepting fruit, grain and vegetable scraps, and newspapers (please finish reading it first). They will discriminate, rejecting any human or animal waste, meat or dairy—too stinky for the mound—and glossy paper and plastic, which do

not degrade.

To get to the finished product, branded “Good Shite,” the compost mound is supplemented by nitrogen-rich additives, such as coffee chaff and horse manure.

Then it’s a matter of time, air, and care.

“By the time we get to the end, the result is something refined, something beautiful,” McGill said.

Something rich, too.

City to close Norah’s windows 7 loophole

Future alterations will require public hearing

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it the Norah Jones effect.

The city is planning to amend a rule that governs visible window openings on facades that don’t face the street—a change that may have averted the hubbub caused by the doe-eyed songstress’s designs for her Cobble Hill mansion.

In 2009, the Grammy Award-winning Bedford-Stuyvesant-born singer initially filed city paperwork for permission to perform some “minor” work on her Amity Street home, which is inside the Cobble Hill Historic District.

The work was approved after a public hearing. But then Jones’s architect filed amended paperwork that revealed the singer’s plan to punch 10 windows into the blank side of her home, causing a stir in the tony landmark district because its Greek Revival rowhouses traditionally eschew ostentation in favor of architectural discretion.

That amendment did not require a new public hearing. Hence, the talk of a “Norah Loophole.”

Eventually, Jones compromised to seven windows, but residents were still vexed that she was granted the right to cause window pains in the neighborhood without a new public hearing.

The Landmarks Preservation Com-



Photo by Tom Callan

Songstress Norah Jones added seven windows to the side of her Amity Street house without a public hearing.

mission took notice.

Jones’s application highlighted “a need for the Commission to set a limit on the number, size, pattern and placement of visible window openings on secondary facades,” commission spokeswoman Lisi de Bourbon said.

The law, as currently written, is ambiguous and does not require the com-

mission’s oversight, provided the windows are in keeping with the existing aesthetic.

Like Jones’s smash hit, residents “don’t know why” it took so long—but were heartened by the city’s nascent effort nevertheless.

“We are trying to preserve the Cobble Hill Historic District and all other 19th-century rowhouses in the city so that they look the way they appeared in the early 19th century,” said Roy Sloane, president of the Cobble Hill Association, a civic group. “How can we preserve our landmarks when windows can be put in places where windows were never intended to go?”

But some preservationists want the city to do more to prevent another Windowgate.

The Historic Districts Council, a preservation group, said any alteration to a visible facade should get a full public hearing, because alterations can drastically change a building’s nature.

“Anything that happens on a secondary facade in a historically residential area should come before Landmarks so the community can weigh in,” said Simeon Bankoff, the group’s executive director.

The city has yet to finalize the rule change. And Jones declined to sing to us about her feelings.

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STONE...

Continued from page 1

accent.

The use of brownstone as a building material was a fad in the latter half of the 19th century—one so prevalent that author Edith Wharton would later deride the era as “the brown decades,” and famously called the rock “the most hideous building stone ever quarried.”

Hideous to her, perhaps, but as omnipresent as Gowanus oysters. Brownstone, which is actually just brown sandstone, was not only popular because architects in the Victorian age

liked earth tones, but because it was cheap.

As the city and its middle class grew, people started living further from work and developers built up Brooklyn as a suburban spot. Like the building boom around the time of the last housing bubble, homes began to get bigger, more pretentious—and more shoddily built.

“These were like the first McMansions and this was the first urban sprawl,” said Morrone. “People wanted stone for their houses and the better stone was too expensive.”

But like any fad, brownstone’s popularity faded; by the Great War, the material was passed over for trendy, lighter-colored materials like limestone. Weather damage, as a result of poor construction and improper quarrying, also gave the material a bad reputation.

But Brooklyn’s ubiquitous brown rock has gotten a bum rap, say some experts.

“With our knowledge of brownstone today and how to cut and handle it properly—we could probably build a better brownstone today that we could in the 19th-century,” said Morrone.

And weather damage is more a result of how the build-

ing is put together than the cut of the rock, added Mike Meehan, owner of the Portland Brownstone Quarries.

Of course, this is Brooklyn, so not everybody is a fan.

“We felt that the house was too grand in proportion for its neighbors on the block,” said Simeon Bankoff of the Historic Districts Council.

But Van den Bout thinks that the classic brownstone material will silence the naysayers—or, at least, having them saying, “Ahhh.”

“The rock will have circular patterns carved into it, making the house appear different throughout the day,” he said. “It will really bring a subtle light to the facade.”

TOBACCO

Continued from page 1

funding and repair.

“This ruling reaches far beyond Brooklyn,” Peg Breen, president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, said on Sunday. “If the National Park Service could choose when to enforce the law, historic buildings and parks across the country would suffer.”

The National Park Service said it could not comment until there is a final ruling, and a spokesman for St. Ann’s Warehouse said that the company would have no comment. But in February, the Park Service had said that it did nothing wrong in 2009,

when it allowed the state to redraw the map of the Brooklyn waterfront to place the two historic buildings on non-parkland so they could be redeveloped. The agency said it was merely correcting an earlier “mistake” that put the buildings in the protected parkland in the first place.

The next year, the world-renowned theater troupe St. Ann’s Warehouse was given development rights to convert the crumbling and roofless building into a \$15-million mixed-use performance hall and plaza.

Opponents said that the feds simply buckled to pressure from state and city authorities who were intent on giving the site to St. Ann’s, and needed a secretly redrawn map.

“It’s clear that the National Park Service—an agency charged with protecting our public parkland—has reneged on this duty and has yielded to political pressure from City Hall,” said

Jane McGroarty, president of the Brooklyn Heights Association.

Vitaliano agreed.

The Park Service’s contention that it was merely correcting a historic mistake is nothing but a “house of cards” that “cannot withstand the gentle breeze,” the judge wrote.

City lawyer Haley Stein said that Bloomberg administration officials “are disappointed with the ruling and look forward to presenting our full case to the court.”

“Brooklyn Bridge Park remains committed to moving

the Tobacco Warehouse project forward and incorporating plans for St. Ann’s Warehouse and Empire Stores as vibrant parts of the park,” Stein added.

But some locals think the city is overly optimistic. Former Community Board 2 member Andrew Stengel, who wrote the seminal law review article in January that led to the lawsuit, saw the decision in larger context.

“The era of unchecked land use decisions in the vein of Robert Moses is long over,” said Stengel.

GEESE...

Continued from page 1

city exterminated waterfowl within a five-mile radius of both LaGuardia and JFK airports—a measure that was expanded last year to Prospect Park, more than seven miles from any runway, without public discussion, much to the horror of neighbors.

USDA spokeswoman Carol Bannerman declined

to talk about the new job position, explaining the contract had not yet been signed.

But, in the past, she has said that when goose populations rise—there are now 193 geese in Prospect Park—they must be controlled. “It isn’t the answer people want to hear, but when there are hundreds of birds, the risk [to airplanes] is higher,” she said.

GPS

Continued from page 1

ting routine maintenance at a Bay Ridge shop in February when a thief swiped the navigation system, a device that city officials installed into the trucks as a way of mitigating outrage over the city’s

blizzard response. The crime wasn’t discovered until April 6, when the truck was at its normal lot along Hamilton Avenue near the Gowanus Canal.

A Sanitation spokesman said that the theft of the much-touted device was not immediately noticed because that particular truck had been deactivated for two months to allow radiation from some

unauthorized medical waste to dissipate.

“It’s not uncommon,” said the spokesman, Matthew LiPani.

The mayor himself had heralded the GPS-tracking of snow plows in January, saying that all 1,700 Sanitation trucks would be fitted with the newfangled navigation systems.

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(718) 260-2500 *The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings* April 15–21, 2011

Old vs. new

Epic food fight pits classicists vs. newcomers

By Sarah Zorn
for The Brooklyn Paper

What's old is new again when it comes to Brooklyn's dining scene. Forget about foams, fusions, or fancy French techniques, there's a new generation of foodies celebrating the borough's culinary roots with an homage to old classics. Not that they aren't doing a little bit of tweaking. When Brandon Gillis and Joshua Sharkey, owners of Bark Hot Dogs in Park Slope, decided to tackle one of Brooklyn's most venerable food institutions, they wanted to make a statement doing it. "We realized that no one was really doing quality fast food at the time," said Gillis. "The only place to find sustainable, responsibly sourced fare was at three-star restaurants. We wanted to put the same thought and care into a product that was affordable to everyone, available to everyone, and loved by everyone." Places like Bark may be looking towards the future, but there are still plenty of Brooklyn restaurants unapologetically embracing the old school. Colandrea New Corner, an Italian-American restaurant in Dyker Heights, is proudly stuck in time. "We do things exactly the same way they did them when my grandfather started the business, over 75 years ago," remarked owner Stephen Colandrea. "That's what keeps our customers coming back. They expect to see the menu the same, the décor the same. They want the food to taste the same way now as it did back then." Whether you prefer to take your taste buds on a tour of old-world Brooklyn, or would rather indulge in a little haute cuisine, one thing's for sure, the borough's best bites have never been on better — or more diverse — display.

HOT DOGS
OLD SCHOOL: Nathans
This old warhorse has been serving frankfurters the same way since 1916. The extra-long all-beef dogs snap nicely when you bite into them, have an appealing sweet and smoky flavor, and bear up perfectly to gobs of spicy, deli-style mustard, piles of saurkraut, or (gasp!) Heinz ketchup. Although many (many) franchises have followed, nothing beats a visit to the original location on Surf Avenue. Yes, the area has seen better days, and you might end up guarding your sand-kissed dog from one-eyed seagulls or roving drunks, but somehow, that only adds to the appeal. Nathans Famous [1310 Surf Ave. at Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 946-2202].

NEW SCHOOL: Bark
Imagine actually knowing what's in your hot dog! Bark performs this small miracle by disclosing a full list of its scrupulously sourced suppliers. Hartmann's Old World Sausage makes the private-label dogs, Heritage Farms USA provides the Berkshire pork products, and kraut and condiments are made in-house. It also doesn't hurt that the puppies are basted with homemade smoked lard butter. The



Hot dog: Server Shakeda Fraser (left) shows off the classic — an all-beef Nathan's frank, an old-school standardbearer. In Park Slope, Bark cook Stoph Sturgul serves up hot dogs crafted from "heritage" pork and basted in smoked lard.



Hot dog: Server Shakeda Fraser (left) shows off the classic — an all-beef Nathan's frank, an old-school standardbearer. In Park Slope, Bark cook Stoph Sturgul serves up hot dogs crafted from "heritage" pork and basted in smoked lard.

humble wiener never had it so good. Bark [474 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope, (718) 789-1939].

PIZZA
OLD SCHOOL: L&B Spumoni Gardens
Generations of Brooklynites continue to flock to this family owned pizzeria in Gravesend for homemade spumoni, ices, and the infamous Sicilian-style pies. The dense and deeply browned crusts are topped with cheese and then sauce, with showers of freshly grated Romano and olive oil finishing the picture. There's a full sit-down restaurant, take-out window and garden seating in addition to the pizza parlor, but prepare yourself for a serious wait. L&B Spumoni Gardens [2725 86th St. between W. 10 and W. 11 streets in Gravesend, (718) 449-1230].

NEW SCHOOL: Fornino
Super-chef Michael Ayoub explores "the art and science of pizza" in this award winning, 'billyburg restaurant. The menu is split into three categories: Naples: The First Generation; Italy, The Second Generation; and Fornino: The Third Generation. Guess where you'll find all the fancy-schmantzy pies? The Funghi Misti is made with mixed wild mushrooms, caciocavallo and mozzarella cheeses and white truffle oil — something you'd be hard pressed

to find at any old slice shop. Fornino [187 Bedford Ave. at N. Seventh street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-6004].

CHEESECAKE
OLD SCHOOL: Juniors
Only three individuals have overseen the production of Junior's famous cheesecake in its 60-plus years of Brooklyn dessert dominance, with one "master baker" presiding over the entire process. No one can describe these cream cheesy wedges as light and fluffy, but that's a good thing. Supremely dense, fantastically rich, and completely satisfying — Juniors cheesecakes are the real Brooklyn deal. Junior's [386 Flatbush Avenue Ext. at DeKalb Avenue in Downtown, (718) 852-5257].

NEW SCHOOL: Robicelli's
Cupcake impresarios, Matt and Allison Robicelli, have become known for miniaturizing just about anything — with delicious results. Chicken n' waffles, Irish soda bread and the Bronx Zoo Egyptian Cobra are past cupcake inspirations, but the cheesecake-themed "Bea Arthur" cupcake, created to memorialize the "Golden Girls" star upon her passing, that is as legendary as its namesake. The cheesecake buttercream pays homage to the show itself, while the black coffee-infused choc-

olate cake represents the trailblazing actress. To us, it's pure deliciousness. Robicelli's (For info on locations, visit robicellis.tumblr.com).

RED-SAUCE ITALIAN
OLD SCHOOL: Colandrea New Corner
Patrons of this old-guard Italian joint know exactly how they like it — sauce: tomato; vegetables: fried; price point: low; portions: huge. And no counting calories here — the tortellini carbonara comes doused with pancetta, egg, meat, cream and cheese, just like back in the day. Colandrea New Corner [7201 Eighth Ave. between 72nd and 73rd streets in Dyker Heights, (718) 833-0800].

NEW SCHOOL: Frankie's 457 Spuntino
Former food and nutrition consultants, Frank Castronovo and Frank Falcinelli, focus on offering simple, local, seasonally inspired fare at this much-ballyhoed Italian eatery. House-made cavatelli is tossed with Faiccos hot sausage and browned sage butter, meatballs are studded with pine nuts and raisins, and the new school carbonara is done with guanciale and farm-fresh Lancaster egg. Frankie's 457 Spuntino [457 Court St. between Fourth Place and Luquer Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 403-0033].

BOOKS

Book acting

Jessica Hagedorn likes to buck tradition as a novelist — so it's no wonder that she's turned her book launch into a theatrical reading. "You can't just go to a bookstore and do a reading now," said Hagedorn (pictured). "You have to make it something special."



So that means enlisting the talent of Kathleen Chalfant for a dramatic reading of her new novel, "Toxicology," on April 19 at powerHouse Arena in DUMBO. "She's one of our greats," said Hagedorn of Chalfant, a Tony Award-winning actress who starred in "Angels in America." "I ran into her on the street one day recently and said, 'I've got the perfect role for you.'" Chalfant will give voice to one of the characters in "Toxicology," which follows two West Village creative types linked by both their passion and self-destructive behavior. "It's a novel of many voices, so I wanted to be able to hit those notes and give you a flavor of the book," said Hagedorn. Jessica Hagedorn at powerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], April 19 at 7 pm; also at Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], April 25 at 7:30 pm. For info, visit www.jessicahagedorn.net. — Meredith Deliso

SERIES

Story pirates

Roald Dahl. James Salter. J.D. Salinger. What do these writers all have in common? At one point, they were all rejected by the New Yorker. And if you were, too, then Halyards has the event for you. The Gowanus bar is launching "The New Yorker Rejects," a reading series comprised of stories rejected by the hoity-toity magazine. "Misery loves company," said Beth Kuster, a freelance writer who runs the series with Halyards owner Edward Colley (and yes, for the record, has been rejected by the New Yorker). "Creation is a very solitary thing, so Edward wanted to create a bar where people who create can have a community." Kuster wants to begin on April 27, but first, she needs submissions. Any story officially rejected from the New Yorker will be considered — but please, nothing too depressing. "We don't want anything that's a downer or a buzz kill," said Kuster. "Only light-hearted stories. I'm sure there are tons in this area. It's such a writerly neighborhood." Halyards [406 Third Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets in Gowanus, (718) 532-8787]. To be considered for the series, e-mail your story to beth.halyards@gmail.com with the subject line, "My New Yorker Reject is attached." — Meredith Deliso



THEATER

'Black Watch'

"Black Watch" — the National Theatre of Scotland's searing look at soldiers in Iraq — is back at St. Ann's Warehouse for a third run. The play is based on interviews playwright Gregory Burke conducted with soldiers who served in a Scottish Army regiment, telling their story via video sequences, bagpipes, intense acrobatics, panoramic historical sequences, and breathtaking battle-field sequences. We called it a "must see" when it last ran at the DUMBO theater in 2008, a year after its New York premiere. In this new production, running from April 16 to May 8, there's a fresh, younger cast, but with director John Tiffany still at the helm of Burke's expertly crafted script, it's still a must-see. "Black Watch" at St. Ann's Warehouse [38 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO, (718) 834-8794], April 16-May 8. Tickets \$55-\$90. For info, visit www.stannswarehouse.org. — Meredith Deliso



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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SUNDAY

April 17

'Swan' great

"Swan Lake" was one of the most popular ballets ever to be performed before Darren Aronofsky turned it all dark in "Black Swan." But if you're curious to see the real thing, the Russian National Ballet Theatre is happy to give you the timeless classic about a princess, a prince, and the evil spell that threatens their happiness. It's tutu good to be true.

2 pm. "Swan Lake" at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. at Hillel Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500]. Tickets \$27-\$50. For info, visit www.brooklyncenter.com.

TUESDAY

April 19

King 'Arthur'

Don't hate author Arthur Phillips because he stole our editor's best novel idea ever (it involved two ne'er-do-well Shakespearean actors who realize that their only hope is to "discover" a heretofore unknown work of the Bard). Hate Phillips because he's one of the best damn writers in Brooklyn — much better than our failed novelist editor.

7 pm. Arthur Phillips at BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677]. www.bookcourt.org.

WEDNESDAY

April 20

Cuba libre!

Cuban culture is taking over the Brooklyn Academy of Music this spring, from films to dance to music. But some of the best can be found right in the lobby. As part of Si Cuba! — a city-wide celebration of art and culture — BAM's walls will be filed with works from contemporary Cuban artists (don't look for any "Viva Fidel" stuff here). The show runs for a month, but Wednesday is opening night.

All day. "Hola Havana" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music [651 Fulton St. near between Rockwell and Ashland places in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100].

FRIDAY

April 22

Run around

When he was with Blues Traveler, John Popper got that song, "Run Around," stuck in our heads all day. But that was 20 years, and thousands of gigs, ago. Now, Popper's back with a side project, the Duskay Troubadours, a band that's a bit like a scrappy, roots-rock alter ego of Blues Traveler. At \$10, it's the bargain of the week.

8 pm. John Popper and the Duskay Troubadours at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets, (718) 963-3369]. Tickets \$10. For info, visit www.brooklynbowl.com.

SATURDAY

April 23

'Night' moves

You may know Shenandoah Ableman as a waitress at Buttermilk Channel, and you may have caught this leggy brunette in a randy burlesque back in San Francisco, but we know her as the gorgeous Grace Slick-meets-Cat Power pipes behind Shenandoah and the Night, a soulful, doo-wop-influenced, moody pop quintet. Don't miss this show.

9 pm. Shenandoah and the Night at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets, (718) 963-3369]. Tickets \$10. For info, visit www.shenandoahandthenight.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, APRIL 15

THEATER, "GUYS AND DOLLS": It's the musical version of Damon Runyon's classic stories about the city's colorful underbelly. \$18, \$15 students and seniors. 8 pm. The Block Theater [376 Bay 44th St. near Shore Parkway in Bay Ridge, (347) 492-0534].

THEATER, "LOOKING GLASS RE-WONDERED": Multi-media show inspired by the themes and objects from Lewis Carroll's novels. \$10 (\$5 students). 2 and 8 pm. Voorhees Theater at City Tech [186 Jay St. at Tillary in Downtown, (718) 260-5588].

READING, LUANE KOKNKE: Author of "Gluten-Free Cookies." With a baking demo. Free. 6:30 pm. Boulevard Books and Cafe [7518 13th Ave. at 76th Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 680-5881].

JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF: Benefit show hosted by Liam McEneaney and featuring Kristen Schaal, Mike Doughty, Kurt Braunohler, Tim Harington, Arden Myrin, Hard Nips, The Suzan and DJ Aaron Lacrate. \$15. 7 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510]. www.thebell-house.com.

THEATER, "MACBETH": Shakespeare's tale of murder, mayhem and intrigue. \$25-\$70. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. www.bam.org.

DANCE, "YE'RE HERE CUZIN": A reverse-"Grapes of Wrath" road trip, navigating the cultural chasm between a suburban California enclave and an isolated Arkansas hill town. \$15. 8 pm. Brooklyn Arts Exchange [421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth St. in Park Slope, (718) 832-0018]. www.bax.org.

MUSIC, BROOKLYN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY: Performing pieces by John Harbison, Haydn and Frank Bridge. \$30, \$20 for students. 8 pm. Chapel of First Unitarian Church [Pierrepoint Street between monroe Place and Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718]. www.brooklynchamber-musicsociety.org.

DANCE, "LOVER, MUSE, MOCKINGBIRD. WHORE.": Company

Just the fellas: Don't miss the Brooklyn Association of the Performing Arts and Genesis Repertory's production of the classic musical "Guys and Dolls," running this Friday at 8 pm and Saturday at 2 and 8 pm at the Block Theater (376 Bay 44th St. near Shore Parkway, no phone).

XIV does a one-woman dance piece based on the work of Charles Bukowski. \$30, \$25 students and seniors. 8 pm. 303 Bond Street Theatre [303 Bond St. near Union Street in Gowanus]. www.CompanyXIV.com.

THEATER, "BLACK WATCH": Critically hailed play about soldiers in Iraq returns for third run. \$55-\$90. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779]. www.stannswarehouse.org.

THEATER, "THE TREMENDOUS TREMENDOUS": A new play from The Mad Ones about a vaudeville troupe at the New York World's Fair. \$18. 8 pm. The Brick [575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189]. www.bricktheater.com.

MUSIC, FIFTH NATION, KELSEY WARREN: Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. www.bam.org.

MUSIC, KARAOKE: Free. Midnight.

Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. www.unionhallny.com.

SAT, APRIL 16

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

PROSPECT PARK WATERFALLS: Learn about the park's fresh water system. Free. 3 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400]. www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "LOOKING GLASS RE-WONDERED": 2 pm. See Friday, April 15.

THEATER, "MACBETH": 2 and 7:30 pm. See Friday, April 15.

THEATER, "GUYS AND DOLLS": 2 and 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Liszt, Bach and Mozart. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic [Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman

tech Center at Myrtle Promenade in Downtown, (718) 596-5410].

THURS, APRIL 21

Brooklyn Bridge Rotary Club.

Weekly meeting. 12:15 pm. Brooklyn Marriott [333 Adams St. in Downtown, (917) 804-0797].

Community Board 1 Environmental Protection and Sanitation Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. District Office [435 Graham Ave. at Frost Street in Williamsburg, (718) 389-0009]. www.cb1brooklyn.org.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@cnglocal.com.

CIVIC CALENDAR

TUES, APRIL 19

84th Precinct Community Council.

Regular meeting. 7 pm. Brooklyn Law School [250 Joralemon St. between Court Street and Boerum Place in Downtown, (718) 875-6850].

68th Precinct Community Council.

Monthly meeting. Free. 7:30 pm. 68th Precinct Stationhouse [333 65th St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 439-4229].

88th Precinct Community and

Youth Council. Regular meeting. 7:30 pm. 333 Lafayette Ave. [between Classon and Grand avenues in Fort Greene, (718) 636-6526].

WED, APRIL 20

Community Board 7. Full board meeting. 6:30. District Office [4201 Fourth Ave. at 43rd Street in Sunset Park, (718) 854-0003].

Community Board 2 Land Use Committee. Regular meeting. 6 pm. Polytechnic University [5 Metro-

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SRDS



The writhe stuff: Laura Careless is maybe all of the above in “*Lover. Muse. Mockingbird. Whore.*,” the latest sexy show from Company XIV in Gowanus. See it starting April 15.

‘Whore’ house

Company XIV turns Bukowski into erotic dance tour de force

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

Austin McCormick and Charles Bukowski may come from two completely different artistic backgrounds, but they have at least one thing in common — women are their muse.

And this month, the choreographer turns to the iconic poet for his own inspiration in the provocative “*Lover. Muse. Mockingbird. Whore.*,” a one-woman show starring Laura Careless.

Using movement, video, music, including pieces by Brahms and Tchaikovsky, and recordings of Bukowski reading his poems, the show explores the female archetypes present in the famous womanizer’s work (lover, muse,

etc.), as well as tackling themes of voyeurism, sexuality and objectification.

Typically, the Carroll Gardens-based dance troupe has a strong baroque influence and over-the-top flair, so things should get interesting when it strips down — in more ways than one — to explore the women in Bukowski’s poetry. And with Careless, whom we loved in the company’s last production, “*Nutcracker Rouge*,” at the helm, you can’t go wrong.

“*Lover. Muse. Mockingbird. Whore.*” at 303 Bond Street Theatre (303 Bond St. between Union and Sackett streets in Carroll Gardens, no phone), April 15-May 8, Fridays-Sundays at 8 pm. Tickets \$30 for adults, \$25 for students and seniors. For info, visit www.companyXIV.com.

This week’s hot dish

Williamsburg and Greenpoint hog the gossip limelight this week, what with monster bar openings, epic restaurant closings, massive Yelp smack downs, and the largest number of raucous drunks per capita.

Green caffeine: The Greenpointers have spotted a new place for residents to get a java fix: Upright Coffee on Manhattan Avenue. Although menu offerings include french press mocha and Sumatran espresso, the teeny joint is bound to win more hipster hearts with their thoughtfully curated collection of pinball games. Who needs coffee when you have “Attack from Mars!” to get the adrenaline pumping?

Hot ticket: Can’t take the wait at Park Slope’s al di la trattoria? Head around the corner to Carroll Street, and try your luck at al di la vino. The intimate offshoot is currently offering a \$25 three-course market menu on Mondays through Wednesdays, and five-dollar wine pours. Just think, by the time you’ve finished your apple bread pudding, a table might actually have opened up next door. On second thought, you’re probably not getting into al di la vino either.

No more drama: A

new chef is finally in place at Dean Street in Prospect Heights, after Nate Smith’s not-so-amicable departure from John Longo and Rob Gelardi’s new eatery where Tavern on Dean used to be. Michael Franzetti, whose resume includes top chef

Look before you Yelp: Eater posted an amusing blow-by-blow conversation had on Yelp, in which “Joan C.” railed against the respected Greenpoint eatery Anella. Joan chided the restaurant for not holding a reserved table for seven

(after the majority of her group failed to show up), adding that maybe the hostess “just needs to get laid.” The owner, Blair Papagni, responded with this pithy bon mot. “It seems best for all involved that you’ve sworn never to return.” You’ve been served!

Gros bierhalle: Nassau Avenue is about to get a 6,000-square-foot bar/restaurant called Spritzenhaus. Eater reports that the behemoth will have four beer stations offering 25 brews on tap, a 100-foot bar, an open kitchen, a wood-burning oven, and sidewalk seating.

People pops: Neighborhood doggies will have to go elsewhere for their gourmet biscuits and puppy treats. According to Here’s Park Slope, Sky Ice, an old-timey looking scoop shop, is opening in the former Buttercups Paw-tisserie space on the corner of Fifth Avenue and St. Marks Street. Maybe they’ll consider offering pupsicles, too.



BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

I'll be honest: I don't know anything about wine.

But at Mauzac Wine Bar, that's not a barrier!

The bartender can guide you through the menu towards a wine you'll like.

Would you like something fruity? Dry? Full-bodied? Earthy?

Here, try a sip of this rosé.

This expertise doesn't come cheap. Most wine is \$10-\$12 a glass, and \$40+ per bottle. Also available: bottled beer, cheese + meat plates.

The cozy space fills up with friendly Fort Greene locals.

Big windows for people-watching.

Also: espresso!

mmm... chorizo...

Only about 15 seats, plus standing room for 10 or so more.

Spiral staircase (to storage)

Mauzac [136 DeKalb Ave. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 693-2044]. Open Sun–Wed, 4 pm–midnight; Thu–Fri, 5 pm–2 am; Sat, 4 pm–2 am. For info, visit, www.mauzacbar.com.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

pm. See Friday, April 15.
MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections by Mozart, Shostakovich, and Brahms. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). 3 pm. Bargemusic [Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083], www.bargemusic.org.
DANCE, "YE'RE HERE CUZIN": 6 pm. See Friday, April 15.
DANCE, "LOVER. MUSE. MOCKINGBIRD. WHORE.": 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MUSIC, STEPHANE WREMBEL: 9 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.
SALES AND MARKETS ARTISTS AND FLEAS: 8 am–6 pm. See Saturday, April 16.
PLANT SALE: Free. 9 am–2 pm. Our Lady of Grace Church [430 Ave. W between E. Third and E. Fourth streets in Gravesend, (718) 627-2020], www.ologchurch.com.

BROOKLYN FLEA: Vintage, antique, handmade, and food vendors. 10 am–5 pm. (27 N. 6 St. at Kent Avenue in Williamsburg), www.brooklynflea.com.

OTHER
"BROOKLYN BUN": A 20K bike ride and 5K run. \$90 individual (\$115 relay). 7:15 am. Prospect Park (Bartel lot/Park Driveway in Park Slope), www.brooklynbun.com.
CAROUSEL RIDE: Noon–5 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MON, APRIL 18
READING, ALEXANDRA STYRON: Author of "Reading My Father: A Memoir." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], www.

bookcourt.org.
WORKSHOP, COOKING: Led by Jamie-Lynn Mollo of Jamie-Lynn's Kitchen. Free. 7 pm. Boulevard Books and Café [7518 13th Ave. at 76th Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 680-5881].

COMEDY, ROB PARAVONIAN: Musician and comedian performs. Free. 8 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse.com.
COMEDY, ED SULLIVAN ON ACID: Hosted by VH1's Pat O'Shea and Troy Bynum. Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

TUES, APRIL 19

FLEA MARKET: Free. 9–11 am. Narros Senior Center [1230 63rd St. between 12th and 13th avenues in Dyker Heights, (718) 232-3211].

READING, ARTHUR PHILIPS: Author of "The Tragedy of Arthur." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677], www.bookcourt.org.

READING, JESSICA HAGEDORN: Author of "Toxicology," with actress Kathleen Chalfant. Free. 7 pm to 9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

MUSIC, THE SASHA DOBSON TRIO WITH TREVOR DUNN AND OSCAR NORIEGA: 7 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

THEATER, "BLACK WATCH": 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

WED, APRIL 20

WORKSHOP, CREATE A BUSINESS PLAN: Part of PowerUP business competition. Free. 9 am. Busi-

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ness Library [280 Cadman Plaza W. at Tillary Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 623-7000], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

MUSIC, BROTHER HAN: \$12. 8 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

BINGO IS FOR LOVERS: Hosted by Dick Swizzle. \$5 for packs. 8 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse.com.

MUSIC, ROOTS & RUCKUS: Night of folk, old-time and blues music. 9 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], www.jalopy.biz.

KARAOKE: Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

THURS, APRIL 21

MUSIC, MARTIN MCQUADE: Free. 7–10 pm. The Schnitzel Haus [7319 Fifth Ave. between 72nd and 73rd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-5600], www.schnitzelhausny.com.

TALK, LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: Free. 7–8:30 pm. New York Methodist Hospital [263 Seventh Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets in Park Slope, (212) 463-7787].

THEATER, "BLACK WATCH": 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MUSIC, NEW AMERICAN FOLK ROCK: Steven Delopoulos and guitarist John Philippidis. Free. 8:30 pm. Schnitzel Haus [7319 Fifth

Ave. between 72nd and 73rd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-5600], www.schnitzelhausny.com.

MUSIC, LUNAS ALTAS: \$10. 9 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], www.jalopy.biz.

MUSIC, RACING HEART: 9 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, MATT MUNISTERI: 10 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, MIKE HERRERA & GASOLINE HEART: 11 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

FRI, APRIL 22

CAROUSEL RIDE: Noon–5 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Mozart and Beethoven. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic [Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083], www.bargemusic.org.

MUSIC, SEAWEED, ALL EYES WEST, DAMN THE DESERT AIR: \$15. 8 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse.com.

MUSIC, ROBIN BACIOR: 8 pm. Spike Hill Tavern [184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737], www.spikehill.com.

MUSIC, ATLANTIC/PACIFIC, HAROULA ROSE, THE DARDYS: \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

DANCE, "LOVER. MUSE. MOCKINGBIRD. WHORE.": 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MUSIC, JOHN POPPER AND THE DUSKRAY TROUBADOURS: \$10. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

THEATER, "BLACK WATCH": 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MUSIC, GUIDONIAN HAND, ONI BUCHANAN, AND DUO ORFEO: \$12. 8 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

MUSIC, PHYLLIS CHEN: 8 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, THE GOOD YEGGS: Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

MUSIC, QUIMBOMBO: Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, JOE FLETCHER: 9 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, THE FANCY: 9 pm. Spike Hill Tavern [184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737], www.spikehill.com.

MUSIC, ZION I AND THE GROUCH: With One Be Lo, The Shotgun Wedding Quintet, and Charlie Buko. \$35. 9:30 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], ny.knittingfactory.com.

MUSIC, GREENE GIRL: 10 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, SEA OF BEES: 10 pm. Spike Hill Tavern [184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737], www.spikehill.com.

MUSIC, ZEMOG GALLO BUENO: 10 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, INIS OIR: 11 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709

Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, THE CAN'T TELLS: 11 pm. Spike Hill Tavern [184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737], www.spikehill.com.

MUSIC, KARAOKE: Free. Midnight. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

SAT, APRIL 23

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "WHAT IT IZ — THE SPOKENWORDICAL": Hip-hop remix of "The Wiz." \$10 (\$5 students). 2 and 7 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbleTheater.

MUSIC, FRANKIE MARRA: Free. 4–8 pm. Kettle Black [8622 Third Ave. at 87th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-7862].

MUSIC, ZACHARY CALE, LITTLE GOLD, GANG VIOLETS: \$8. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

DANCE, "LOVER. MUSE. MOCKINGBIRD. WHORE.": 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

THEATER, "BLACK WATCH": 8 pm. See Friday, April 15.

MUSIC, ELECTRIC JUNKYARD GAMELAN: 8 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, ROBIN AIGNER AND PARLOUR GAME, BACKWORDS: Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

MUSIC, TELMARY DIAZ: Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, JESS AND SHU: 9 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, DAVILLA 666: With The Beets and Xray Eyeballs. \$14. 9 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], ny.knittingfactory.com.

MUSIC, BEATS ANTIQUE, SHENANDOAH AND THE NIGHT: \$10. 9 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, ALLISON WEISS: 10 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, SMOKEY'S ROUNDUP: 10 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: 8 am–4 pm. See Saturday, April 16.

BROOKLYN FLEA: 10 am–5 pm. See Saturday, April 16.

FLEA MARKET: 10 am–6 pm. See Saturday, April 16.

OTHER

5K RUN: Benefiting Child Abuse Prevention Program. \$25 entry fee. 8:30 am. Knights of Columbus [1511 10th Ave. at Prospect Park Southwest in Park Slope, (212) 704-2026], 5K.cappnyc.org/capp.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION: Featuring an ecology lab, recycling small electronics, music and public tours of the mobile Nature and Maritime Museum. Free. 11 am–5 pm. Ikea/Erie Basin Park (One Beard St. at Otsego Street in Red Hook), emmredhookpirates.blogspot.com.

CAROUSEL RIDE: Noon–5 pm. See Friday, April 15.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION: Nature games, educational activities, performances and crafts for the whole family. Free. 1–4 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

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PARENT

Can a kid die of loneliness?

The power of childlike intuition was never more evident than on a recent afternoon in a local coffee shop. Oscar had been sitting at a table reading a Harry Potter book and waiting patiently for his chocolate chip cookie and, finally, he walked up to where I had ordered and was talking to my barista friends.

“Mommy,” he said, “can you die of loneliness?”

My stomach dropped. The link between loneliness and ill health, love as a cure-all, is a theme I have thought a lot about, talked a lot about, written a lot about. It is probable that he has caught wind of that, but more alarmingly, it is likely that he has come to some conclusions about loneliness on his own at 7, no matter how hard I’ve tried to protect him.

First things first, I answered his question straight up because that’s what I do.

“Yes,” I said. “I think you can.”

He nodded in agreement.

But then I followed up. “Why did you ask that?” I asked, fingers crossed under the table that he wouldn’t offer up how bad a mother I was, how I was always talking to others instead of to him.

He shrugged. “There were these three characters in the book and they weren’t getting along. They decided to separate from each other, and I predict they’re going to die of loneliness.”

He said it so matter-of-factly, not sadly, but my heart still sank. I wanted to ask him if he was lonely, if the reason he was asking was because of his own fears

of abandonment or separation from others, but I didn’t. Sometimes asking the hard questions directly is the best way to kill the conversation. It is the hard job of parents to take what kids say and extrapolate from it, imagining that they often project their own fears and concerns onto other characters and situations even when they don’t realize it themselves.

I tried to stay general and not overwhelm him with my theories, so I took on the tough topic of loneliness by addressing the issue of relationships, which I surmised is what Oscar was interested in. I told him that working on relationships is a difficult but important part of life. I gave the obvious examples of how hard his father and I work on our marriage, despite the difficulties that arise, how hard he has to work with his brother to get past sibling rivalry to the great bits of brotherhood. The twisty complicated roads of our friendships, too, are mostly worth it for the reward of companionship.

Of course, any relationship — even my own constant undying love for my children — can change and then fail to ward off loneliness. I tried to explain to Oscar without scaring him that it is a never-ending search to find the people who will help us survive. It is natural instinct, really, a mechanism we have within us that makes us move on beyond even our mothers when our needs are no longer getting met.

“Those three characters,” I said, “may have separated from one another because they needed something or

Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

someone else ...”

It is the theme behind any good children’s story, behind every Disney movie, that even the seemingly necessary relationship between mother and child is expendable, that kids from a very young age can survive even soul-killing loneliness as long as they find other creatures that care. “The Black Stallion” was my favorite book because the horse saved the boy. I also vividly remember believing that the lumbering gray elephants in the Tucson Zoo had lived with me, had moved in to take care of me in the moments my own mother was otherwise engaged. They seemed so calm and resourceful, those elephants, perfect foster parents. That belief buoyed me.

Figuring out how to create a close relationship with my kids and encourage them to create other close relationships beyond me or any one person is something I wrestle with all the time. It’s their job to figure how what or who they need.

Indeed, I may be doing them a disservice by using them to cure my own loneliness, cuddling them too closely, listening too intently. One of life’s challenges is to recreate a doting mother figure out in the world, and I have often reasoned my way out of conscious or uncon-

(It is, if nothing else, a great guilt reducer.)

I do not wish to purposely make my kids feel lonely, but I try to take those moments when they have offered up such feelings as teaching opportunities. I try to take myself out of the equation and not feel bad that my love alone can’t save them. I can give them a hug and a kiss, but then I try to lead them to things that have often served me in my own sad, isolated moments, things like books and music, which offer a connectedness to Other when real-life relating with people isn’t possible.

Loneliness, by definition, is being cut off from others, isolated. Trying to connect in any way possible is key, paramount really, to life. Oscar knew that before he asked. It is, after all, natural instinct.

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DUMBO...

Continued from page 1

filmmakers to pay for neighbors’ parking garage spaces when they invade the streets, and was irked last week when yet another crew — this time for a crime thriller, “The Pro-

jectionist” — set up camp for three days. (A spokesperson for the movie didn’t return calls on Friday.)

It’s hardly the first time movie crews have gotten bad reviews from the neighbor-

hood. In 2007, the city temporarily deemed DUMBO, along with Brooklyn Heights, a no-film zone after couple of particularly inconvenient shoots.

Since then, DUMBO has set the screen for movies such as “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” starring Sandra Bullock; “Dark

Horse,” starring Christopher Walken (which is directed by twisted genius Todd Solondz); “Friends With Kids” starring Megan Fox; along with a smattering of TV shows such as “Law and Order.”

On top of that, at least four condo towers — 205 Water St., 220 Water St., 192 Wa-

ter St. and 37 Bridge St. — have sprouted in a two-block radius near Water and Bridge streets, making parking even tougher.

Those towers are just a couple blocks from a four-block stretch of Water Street that’s been blocked off construction teams, who are ripping up the pavement as part

of a \$5-million water main and sewer replacement project.

That’s part of why community leaders want more notice from the city, along with the stricter enforcement, when it comes crews that overstay allotted permit times.

“It’s can be a hassle,” said

Doreen Gallo of the DUMBO Neighborhood Alliance. “It seems like we’re getting bombarded.”

Another option is a film “moratorium,” during which the city asks filmmakers to “take five” in certain movie-burdened neighborhoods. Marybeth Ihle of the Mayor’s Office of Film, Theater

and Broadcasting would say only that those decisions “are handled on a case-by-case basis” and that “it depends on what’s happening in the neighborhood.”

Either way, Connolly wants the city to clamp down before the weather gets warm — and even more crews flood his backyard.

BARS...

Continued from page 1

a good time.”

Dozens of new bar owners attended the hearing to gripe that their livelihoods would be destroyed.

“I am concerned about [whether] there will be a risk to open a restaurant for those with a good track record,” said Kevin Patrick Linney, who hopes to open a bar at on Kent Avenue near N. 11th Street.

And some residents, such as Daniel Susla, hoped that the board’s proposal wouldn’t neglect nuisance bars such as the one that keeps him awake until 4 am most nights.

“We understand the hoopla here, but we’re more in favor of enforcement of bars that operate outside the law,” said Susla

Olechowski’s proposal is certainly not new — Community Board 2 tried to do the same thing in 2009 until Borough President Markowitz intervened to keep neighborhood taps running — and complaints about bars are as common in Williamsburg as, well, bars.

Community board staffers say that they have received a rising number of complaints from residents about excessive noise and late-night revelry from many new bars.

And some residents have mounted aggressive campaigns to prevent the board from handing out liquor licenses like candy — a campaign that even ensnared a quiet wine bar on the corner of Metropolitan and Driggs Avenues and a bar in the middle of a residential stretch of

Grand Street.

The proposal will be officially introduced at the board’s Public Safety Committee on May 5, but Olechowski’s call for a mini-Prohibition has already created a rift between drinkers and teetotalers.

“Wow, that’s so crazy! It’s Draconian,” said board member Ryan Kuonen. “I don’t like things that are so black and white.”

The board’s public safety committee chairman, Mieszko Kalita, compared a moratorium to “playing God” with the lives of entrepreneurs who want to open a restaurant.

“It will play huge role in price of real estate,” said Kalita. “Whoever has a bar and is selling an existing license could become a millionaire overnight. We really have to think it over.”

But board member Will Florentino understands his neighbor’s frustrations with new drinking establishments.

“We do suffer an undue burden, and that does hamper the quality of life in the district,” said Florentino.

Board members in favor of the moratorium may think that their neighborhood is the booziest in New York, but it’s not even in the top 10.

Community Board 1 Public Safety Committee will debate the proposal at its next meeting on May 5 at the board’s office [435 Graham Ave. at Frost Street in Williamsburg, (718) 389-0009]. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm.

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE FAMILY COURT FOR THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF LEXINGTON Jean Tinsley-Simmons, DOCKET NO.: 2010-DR-32-02227 Plaintiff, SUMMONS Tara Serrano, Defendant TO:.....Tara Serrano, Defendant above named: ..YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer thereto upon the attorney for the Plaintiff at her office, 201 West Main Street, Post Office Box 310, Lexington, South Carolina 29071, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within such time, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD J. BREIBART ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF Rebecca West 201 West Main Street Post Office Box 310 Lexington, South Carolina 29072 Phone: 803/ 359-7996 Fax: 803/ 951-4619 Lexington, South Carolina August 27, 2010

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
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